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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claim 2.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's Indication that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Folk et al. (US 4,707,722). Claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Folk et al. (US 4,707,722). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Folk et al. (US 4,707,722) in view of JP 6-13478. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Folk et al. (US 4,707,722) in view of JP 61-166050. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 2 and 5-12.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite:

"A method of manufacturing a nonreciprocal circuit device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal case covering central conductors, a ferrite core arranged near the central conductors, and a permanent magnet for applying a static magnetic field to the ferrite core;

marking information onto the metal case by irradiating the metal case with a laser beam; and

heating the nonreciprocal circuit device after the information has been marked onto the metal case." (emphasis added)

Applicants' claim 2 recites the step of "providing a metal case covering central conductors, a ferrite core arranged near the central conductors, and a permanent magnet for applying a static magnetic field to the ferrite core." With the improved features of claim 2, Applicants have been able to provide a method of manufacturing a nonreciprocal circuit device in which marking is performed thereon without reducing the amount of product information (see, for example, the first full paragraph on page 5 of the originally filed Specification).

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Applicants have amended claim 2 recite the step of "providing a metal case covering central conductors, a ferrite core arranged near the central conductors, and a permanent magnet for applying a static magnetic field to the ferrite core." The Examiner has alleged that these features should not be given any patentable weight because they were recited in the preamble of previously presented claim 2. Applicants disagree. However, Applicants have amended claim 2 in order for these features to be given patentable weight.

Folk et al. clearly teaches marking a semiconductor device package, **NOT** a nonreciprocal circuit device as recited in Applicants' claim 2. Further, Folk et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the features of a metal case, central conductors, a ferrite core, and a permanent magnet as recited in Applicants' claim 2. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Folk et al. clearly fails to teach or suggest the step of "providing a metal case covering central conductors, a ferrite core arranged near the central conductors, and a permanent magnet for applying a static magnetic field to the ferrite core" as recited in Applicants' claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Folk et al.

The Examiner has relied upon JP 6-13478 and JP 61-166050 to allegedly cure various deficiencies in teaching of Folk et al. However, neither JP 6-13478 nor JP 61-166050 teach or suggest the feature of the step of "providing a metal case covering central conductors, a ferrite core arranged near the central conductors, and a permanent magnet for applying a static magnetic field to the ferrite core" as recited in Applicants' claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior of record, applied alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the unique combination and arrangement of features and method steps recited in claim 2 of the present application. Claims 3-12 depend upon claim 2 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 2 is allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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